

University of Missouri Extension



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Iron County Soil & Water Conservation District

# Quarterly Newsletter

July, August, September 2011

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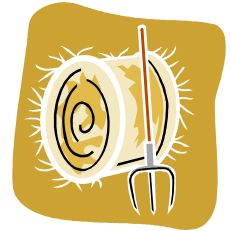
### Employees:

Kenny Wooten, District Mgr/Tech  
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*Preserving Soil & Water  
through Conservation*

## Hot Hay

By Marvin Hall, Penn State Forage Specialist



This time of year, farmers often know the hay they are baling is wetter than they'd like, but they are taking a chance, hoping to save a better-quality product versus letting the rain cause the crop to deteriorate in the field. Unfortunately, moist hay can quickly become hot hay which can ignite through spontaneous combustion.

Most farmers strive to bale hay that is field dried to 20 percent or less in moisture. At this moisture content, the baled hay can cure properly and maintain quality. With moisture content higher than 20%, hay under storage conditions will generate more heat than can safely be dissipated into the atmosphere. As temperatures rise, dangers of spontaneous combustion increase. Farmers need to be diligent in checking their hay, especially if they know they baled hay that was wetter than normal. Smoldering hay gives off a strong, pungent odor. This odor is an indication that a fire is occurring. If even the slightest smell is present, farmers should take temperature readings of the stack.

Reaching inside a hay stack will give an initial clue. If it feels warm or hot to the touch, that's a good indication that problems may exist. Knowing the temperature of the hay is the only real way of determining how serious the potential fire problem is before flames ignite.

### Hay temperature and related actions:

- Temperature 125 degrees F — No action needed.
- Temperature 150 degrees F — Entering the danger zone. Temperatures should be checked twice daily. If possible, stacked hay should be disassembled to allow more air to move around heated bales for cooling.
- Temperature 160 degrees F — Reaching the danger zone. Temperature should be checked every two hours. If possible, stacked hay should be disassembled to allow more air to move around heated bales for cooling.
- Temperature 175 degrees F — Hot spots or fire pockets are likely. If possible, stop all air movement around hay. Alert fire service of a possible hay fire incident.
- Temperature 190 degrees F — Remove hot hay. This should be done with the assistance of the fire service. The fire service should be prepared for hay to burst into flames as it contacts fresh air.

Keeping a watchful eye on heating hay can save your barn or storage building. Checking the temperature of suspected or hot hay can help you make critical decisions. If you see the temperature rising toward the 150 degree range, you might consider moving the hay to a remote location, away from any buildings or combustible material. Use caution when moving heated bales, because they can burst into flames when they are exposed to fresh air. Wetting hot bales down before moving them can help control this hazard.

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## Iron County Soil & Water Conservation District

### Annual Dinner Meeting

It was great to see so many of our land owners and special guests at our annual dinner meeting on May 12th. We hope everyone enjoyed the meal and had a good time. Special thanks to all of our sponsors! Our guest speaker this year was Robert DeMoss. Robert serves as Team Leader for the South Missouri Water Quality Project and is also a Forester with NRCS.



This year's Conservation Farmer of the Year was Frank Chambers. He purchased his farm in 1971, originally 18 acres. Over the years, he has purchased any adjoining property that has come up for sale. Today, his farm consists of 140 acres. He has done numerous cost-share practices, with both the Soil & Water District and NRCS. He has cleared about 40 acres from scrub timber & weeds, which he has turned into pasture. He has installed a Woodland Exclusion, fencing cattle out of the woods; a DWC-1 water impoundment reservoir (pond) with a watering system, seeding practices and rotational grazing. He has done food plots for wildlife and not to mention, he has about the best looking garden around. Congratulations Frank!



We had a lot of really good posters for our poster contest. Thanks to all the children who participated and special thanks to all the teachers for allowing us to share conservation awareness with the fifth graders of Iron County. Poster winners were: **Arcadia Valley:** Haylee Walker, 1st place; Teyona Clark, 2nd place; Melissa Orrick, 3rd place. **Bellevue:** Emma Rosener, 1st place; Blake Rawlings, 2nd place; Andrea Winingar 3rd place. **South Iron:** Cortnie Boswell, 1st place; Brooklyn Matychowiak, 2nd place; Joseph Barnes, 3rd place. **Viburnum:** Taylor Barton, 1st place; Kinsley Payne, 2nd place; Jeffery Brown, 3rd place. Placing at the **County** level were: Haylee Walker, 1st place; Emma Rosener, 2nd place and Taylor Barton, 3rd place. Great job everyone!

No-till Drill  
Available to Rent  
\$8.00 per Acre

Call 573-546-6518  
For more information



### Women in Agriculture State Conference

The 17th annual Women in Ag Conference will be September 11-13 in Booneville, MO. A block of rooms have been reserved for these nights at a special rate of \$49 per night at the Isle of Capri Hotel. If you're interested in staying there, please make your reservations by August 15th by calling 660-882-1200. Monday's opening session features Charlie Hopper with the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Monday night's banquet will feature Senator Jean Carnahan as the guest speaker. Tuesday's tour will include a visit to Warm Springs Ranch, home of the Budweiser Clydesdale Horses and a stop at the Starr Pines Christmas Tree Farm. Wednesday's luncheon will feature KRCG News Anchor, Teresa Snow, as guest speaker. There will also be various workshops and a silent auction.

Registration cost is \$75 which includes Monday banquet, Tuesday breakfast, tours & lunch and Wednesday breakfast & lunch. Partial registration is as follows: Monday only, for \$25, which includes the banquet; Tuesday only, for \$50, which includes breakfast, tour & lunch; Wednesday only, for \$20, which includes breakfast & lunch. Registration due by August 15th. Make checks payable to: Amy Neier c/o 2011 Women in Ag. Send payment along with registration form (posted on our website at [www.swcd.mo.gov/iron/](http://www.swcd.mo.gov/iron/)), to Maries County SWCD, Attn: Amy Neier, 105 Parkway, Vienna, MO 65582.

### Noxious Weed Control

The State of Missouri has designated twelve weed species "noxious." The term "noxious" refers to the weed's ability to cause economic harm to the state's agriculture industry and to the high level of difficulty associated with controlling or eradicating the species. The twelve designated are: Musk Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Canada Thistle, Multiflora Rose, Field Bindweed, Purple Loosestrife, Marijuana, Johnson Grass, Common Teasel, Cut-Leaved Teasel, Kudzu Vine and Spotted Knapweed.

The Missouri Department of Agriculture provides assistance to landowners regarding chemical, technical, mechanical and biological control of noxious weed species. Follow recommendations of the University of Missouri college of agriculture as to the best and approved method to control and prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Call 573-546-7505 or 573-546-6518 for a guide sheet on noxious weeds and herbicides. Log on to [mda.mo.gov](http://mda.mo.gov) for information on noxious weeds plus a whole lot more.

### Our Great State

Missouri got its name from the Missouri Indian tribe. "Missouri" means "town of the large canoes." The "Show Me" State was the 24th state to enter the Union (1821), although that slogan wasn't coined until 1899. Missouri was the first slave state to free its slaves (1865). Aunt Jemima pancake flour, invented at St. Joseph, was the first self-rising flour for pancakes and the first ready-mix food ever to be introduced commercially (1889).

(continued on page 4)

Soil test kits are available through the Extension office

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## Soil Savers Corner

### Summertime Sweet (and Healthy!) Treats

Frozen fruit tastes great on a hot day! To freeze, line a cookie sheet with plastic, lay out slices of peaches, bananas, strawberries, whole grapes or melon chunks. When they are frozen solid, keep them in a plastic bag in the freezer until you are ready to snack. Eat them plain, or use them instead of ice cubes in lemonade or tea. Frozen sliced peaches, strawberries, mangoes or bananas make great smoothies when combined in the blender with yogurt, a little milk, a touch of sugar and maybe some vanilla. Frozen watermelon chunks can be put into the blender or food processor and turned into watermelon sorbet. Enjoy the fruits of summer!

## Organic Pest Control for the Garden

By Donna Aufdenberg

More and more, gardeners are seeking information on organic pest control for their vegetables. Reasons can range from health concerns to worries about the environment. Regardless of the reasons, it is very important to understand basic concepts.

Organic control can be combined with chemical control. There are chemical-free control methods that can be implemented to keep chemical use to a minimum. With organic control, perfect vegetables are not realistic. We have to tolerate a bit of insect damage on our produce at harvest time. Spend more time in the garden learning about pests and how to manage them.

The first and foremost important concept in pest control is identifying the pest and knowing its lifecycle. Also, there are many beneficial insects that are mistaken for pests - know the difference! It is also important to know what chemical-free control methods exist.

The use of floating row covers is growing with gardeners because they screen out pests during periods when the plant is vulnerable. They must be removed before plants flower to allow pollination except for plants grown for greens, like lettuce and chard, or broccoli/cauliflower, which do not require pollination.

Crop rotation is one of the oldest and most effective cultural control methods. Most pests are host specific so allowing the same plant material in the same space year after year can be detrimental.

Choose resistant varieties. Some varieties are less susceptible to insect damage.

Hand picking is labor-intensive but is very useful especially if you're trying to control larger insect pests such as Colorado potato beetles or tomato hornworms. *Bacillus thuringiensis*, also known as Bt or Dipel can control larval stages of some insects.

Sanitation is important. Eliminate weeds in and around the garden that might harbor pests. Clean up crop residues as soon as harvest is complete. Don't leave anything lying in the garden that might serve as a hiding place for pests.

Inspect plants regularly, especially borders and outside rows. When you find a pest, determine the threshold level. How many aphids or white flies will you and/or the plant tolerate? Every insect pest will have a different threshold level!

As a last resort, use organic chemical control. There are a number of naturally derived pesticides that are considered organic. Some work very well but need to be applied more frequently than synthetic pesticides. Individual product labels will tell you the rate and how often to apply the materials on your vegetable plants.

Several organic pesticides are commonly found over the counter in garden centers and nurseries as well as farm stores and box stores. Organic insecticides available to home gardeners include Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), pyrethrums, rotenone, insecticidal soap, diatomaceous earth, neem and horticultural oils. Be certain before you spray a pesticide - organic or not! And be sure to follow label directions!

## Livestock Health and Handling Class

From Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist

The Show Me Quality Assurance (SMQA) Program emphasizes good management practices in the handling and use of animal health products, and encourages producers to review their approach to their herds health programs. By completing this program, producers demonstrate their commitment to animal production. The entire industry benefits from widespread producer commitment to the program. The program, if put into practice by the majority of U.S. producers, will help the industry protect or even expand its market. This will be accomplished by reducing the risk of incidents that could destroy consumer confidence.

A SMQA program will be held on Friday, July 29 starting at 5 p.m. at the Reynolds County Fairgrounds in Redford. The class should last about one hour and will be followed by a livestock fitting and showing clinic. Class is open to everyone, but is mandatory for any 4-H kids who want to show animals. For more information or to register, contact Kendra Graham at 573-224-5600 ext. 8.

## New Incentives for On-Farm Energy Savings Program

Department of Agriculture, Jefferson City

New financial incentives are available for Missouri livestock producers who install qualifying energy efficient equipment. The **Missouri Agricultural Energy Savings Team—A Revolutionary Opportunity** program, also known as MAESTRO looks at ways to save energy on the whole farm including the farm residence through the installation of energy efficient equipment.

MAESTRO is a program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and operated by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Uni-



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versity of Missouri and EnSave, Inc. "Missouri farmers have continuously shown great interest in both efficiency and innovation, cornerstones of this program", said Director of Agriculture Dr. Jon Hagler. "Helping farmers get energy audits and upgrades can greatly improve their bottom lines and that is good for all Missourians."

### Program Highlights:

Energy Management Plans – a \$1,500 value for only \$250, Free if you install the recommended equipment • Free Technical Assistance • Home energy audit – a \$500 value for only \$125 • Incentive up to 75% of the total project cost, not to exceed \$5,000 • Loan buy down to 3% - up to \$50,000 OR 75% loan guarantee for loans up to \$50,000.

To receive incentives, projects must have 15% energy savings or greater. Energy Management Plans - Once the project(s) are complete the \$250 cost is reimbursed. Home energy audits - Once the project(s) are complete the \$125 cost is reimbursed. Interested farmers are encouraged to call the MAESTRO team at 800-732-1399 for more information or to enroll. For more information on the Missouri Department of Agriculture and its programs, visit [mda.mo.gov](http://mda.mo.gov). Energy saving technologies must be installed no later than November 30, 2012.

**Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.**

## Upcoming Grazing School

Missouri Forage and Grassland Council will be holding the following grazing schools:

July 20-22 Houston  
Aug 1-3 Squires  
Aug 12-13 Lancaster  
Aug 19-20 Mark Twain  
Sept 8-9 Maries River Watershed

Sept 13-15 Marshfield  
Sept 19-21 Forsythe  
Sept 20-21 St. Martins  
Sept 21-22 St. Robert  
Sept 23-24 Camden Point

Sept 29-30 Wurdack  
Oct 4-6 Linneus  
Oct 12-14 Willow Springs  
Oct 18-20 Bois D'Arc

For contact and registration information, visit: [agebb.missouri.edu/mfgc/schools.htm](http://agebb.missouri.edu/mfgc/schools.htm). If you do not have access to a computer to visit the website, call the Iron County SWCD office @ 573-546-6518 for contact information.

## Our Great State (continued from page 2)

It was at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 that Richard Blechyden served tea with ice, thus inventing iced tea. Missouri covers an area of 68,886 square miles. Our State Seal has two huge grizzly bears supporting a circular shield which has our state motto "United We Stand, Divided We Fall". Inside, the right section represents the United States, while the left section contains a moon, representing a new state and a grizzly bear, standing for courage. Our number one crop is soybeans. There are 114 counties plus 1 independent city. Missouri Day is the 3rd Wednesday in October.